



Friends of the Salem Library

Promoting Library Services

The Friends of the Salem Library have been busy the last couple of months. In August, we held a “Meet and Greet” to welcome our new Library Director, Rachel Gaither, to Salem. We invited officials and townspeople and provided the refreshments for the event. Rachel immediately started working with the Friends. She helped move books for the Used Book Sale and is helping to plan our upcoming celebrations.

Starting in September, in cooperation with the Law Firm of Chipparone and Zaccaro, P.C., the Friends hosted a three-part Elder Solution Series. Topics focused on the needs of elders and their children and addressed wills and trusts, where to retire, and how to protect your parents.

For the Friends, the big fall event is our Annual Used Book Sale. Through your support, both in donating and purchasing books, we earned over \$7100. This money will be used to support the Salem Library including adding to the collection and offering programs and services. We owe thanks to many people for the success of this fundraiser. The cooperation from Salem School administration and staff make the school, especially the gym, available for the sale. Thanks also to the many volunteers who make the sale possible. Each year, we set up 90+ tables and move 20,000 books from various locations into the gym in less than 5 hours on Friday and then move the leftover books out of the gym in 2 hours on Saturday. But the biggest thanks go to Judy and Norm Rabe who chair the Book Sale committee and to George Ziegra for helping with collecting and sorting throughout the year.

The Friends are looking forward to a number of celebrations. In December of 2014, we are planning a 10th Birthday Party for our “new” Library. The celebration is scheduled for December 6th and features a magician, face painting, cake and coffee, and the ever popular Eight Mile River Band. This band was the first musical group to play at the Salem Library when it opened in 2004. Plan to come to the celebration.

In May of 2015 we celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Friends of the Salem Free Public Library. The Salem Friends were founded in 1990 in den of the Cole-Chu home with Betsy Butts as our first president. Things have really changed. In the early years we did well to raise \$400 at our book sale. While there was little or no space for programs, we helped the library improve services when we could. The Friends purchased the first public access computer in town and bought the software to allow our library to be part of the interlibrary loan system. Today we raise 15 times as much at our used book sale and annually donate \$13,000 to support our library. Friends support to our library is accomplished through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, some of whom have been supporting the library for over 25 years, and through donations of money, books, and time. But it all begins when people become members of the Friends of Salem Library and the Friends need your support to continue our efforts for the next 25 years. Thank you all.

Carl Nawrocki
President